standard H.323 signaling. The previous codecs are then dropped, in a step 712. The system then cycles back to step 704, i.e., network monitoring, after an optional configurable delay (step 714) to prevent the possibility of the same connection from being repeatedly downgraded.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12 as set forth below:

3.   (Amended) A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 1, said bandwidth allocation server configured to initiate said re-negotiation if one or more existing connections have a quality of service (QoS) level which may be altered.

5.   (Amended) A method for operating a telecommunication system, comprising:

monitoring network usage at a bandwidth allocation server; and

changing codec speed for one or more ongoing connections based on said monitoring network usage, responsive to signals from said bandwidth allocation server.

7.   (Amended) A method according to claim 5, including determining whether data traffic on a monitored network has exceeded a predetermined threshold.

8.   (Amended) A telecommunications device, comprising:

means for establishing a connection with another telecommunications device using a first coding algorithm; and

means for changing a communication over said connection from said first coding algorithm to a second coding algorithm, said changing means responsive to one or more signals from a bandwidth allocation server that monitors network conditions.